



LANGPORT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year Ending DECEMBER 31st, 1946.



—————
0
0

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health:	P.P. Fox. M.B. ; Ch.B. ; D.P.H. ;
Secretary to Medical Officer of Health:	(Mrs) V.H. Brooks.
Senior Sanitary Inspector:	A. Ford. F.S.I.A. ;
Additional Sanitary Inspector:	H.F. Binder. M.S.I.A. ;

To the Chairman and Members of the District Council.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1946.

Vital Statistics.

It will be noted that the birth rate was 19.7 as compared with 17.01 for the previous year. A satisfactory feature is the Infantile Mortality rate which was 41.3 per 1,000 live births as compared with 46 per 1,000 for England and Wales.

Housing.

Lack of housing accommodation still constitutes a major problem. Indicative of the housing shortage is that 15 condemned houses are still in temporary use. It is increasingly evident that the adequate provision of satisfactory houses is a major factor in the physical, mental and moral health of the community.

Detailed information of the water supply and sanitary circumstances of the area will be found in Section 3 of the Report.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

P.P. FOX.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	57,122 Acres.
Registrar-General's estimate of						
(a) Resident Population, mid 1946						
(b) Average Population appropriate to the calculation of death rates					...	12,280
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1946) according to Rate Books.	...	...	...	...	...	3,850
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£51,197
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£207

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

		<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Live Births	- Legitimate	232	134	98
	Illegitimate	10	5	5
Still Births	- Legitimate	2	2	-
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
Deaths		159	69	90
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population			19. 7	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births			8. 2	
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population			12. 9	

Extracts from Vital Statistics cont

Deaths from Puerperal Causes		<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000</u> <u>total Births.</u> (Live and Still)
No 29	Puerperal Sepsis)	Nil	Nil
No 30	Other Puerperal Causes)		

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age.

All infants per 1,000 Live Births	41.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate Live Births	43.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	23
" " Measles (all ages)	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

Causes of Death.

	<u>Year 1945.</u>		<u>Year 1946</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Acute Polio-mylitis	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	6	2	2
Tuberculosis, other forms	-	-	1	2
Syphilitic Diseases	1	-	-	1
Influenza	-	-	1	2
Cancer	11	13	8	15
Diabetes	-	1	-	-
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	7	9	7	10
Heart Disease	37	27	18	25
Other Circulatory Diseases	4	3	5	2
Bronchitis	8	3	3	3
Pneumonia	3	4	1	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	2	-	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	4	1	-	-
Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	-	1	-
Digestive Diseases	2	5	-	-
Nephritis	2	3	3	7
Premature Birth	-	2	5	1
Congenital Malformation Birth Injuries	-	-	2	-
Suicide	3	-	-	1
Road Traffic Accidents	2	1	1	1
Other Violent Causes	2	1	2	2
All Other Causes	4	14	9	11
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	91	95	69	90
	<hr/>		<hr/>	

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA.

1. (a) Medical Officer of Health. Dr. P.P. Fox succeeded Dr. R.P. Hosford as Medical Officer of Health on November 1st, 1946.
- (b) Sanitary Inspectors. No change.
2. (a) Laboratory Facilities.)
- (b) Ambulance Facilities.)
- (c) Clinic.) No change.
- (d) Nursing.)
- (e) Hospital.)

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES.

1. Compton Durville. This source provides water for four Parishes. The supply is satisfactory in quality and quantity. Bacteriological examinations are made quarterly. The results are very satisfactory.
2. Lytos Cary. This source provides water for three Parishes, one of which is in the Rural District of Yeovil. At times slight contamination is present and the water is regularly chlorinated. Bacteriological examinations are made quarterly and the results are very satisfactory.
3. Western Parishes. Two sources of supply provide water for the nine Parishes. (a) Adit at Barrington. (b) 70,000 gallons supplied daily by the Rural District Council of Chard. The yield from the Adit at Barrington has shown a decline for several years. The deficiency is made up by Chard R.D.C. Bacteriological examinations are made of the Barrington supply quarterly, the results being satisfactory. The water supplied from Chard is chlorinated.
4. Long Sutton. This source supplies the Parish of Long Sutton with an average of 10,000 gallons daily. A chlorinating plant is constantly in use. Bacteriological examinations are made quarterly, the results being satisfactory.
5. The Bacteriological Analysis of the Supplies not chlorinated and the Supplies chlorinated all show the same degree of quality.
6. No actual shortage of water was experienced during the year in any of the Public Supplies. The supply from Compton Durville to Langport, Huish Episcopi and Aller has been, and will continue to be restricted owing to the fact that the existing pipe line from Stembidge, Kingsbury Episcopi to the Huish Episcopi Boosting Station is inadequate to carry the quantity of water now required from this Boosting Station.
7. Practically all Stand Pipes have been dispensed with where a piped supply is available and the supply is direct to the house. 92% of the houses are connected.
8. During the year many requests were received from owners of Wells in the Eastern Parishes, as a result of which the following Water Samples were taken :-

Bacteriological	29
Chemical	<u>4</u>
	<u>33</u>

9. A scheme to supply the Eastern Parishes, comprising the villages of Babecary, Barton St David, Charlton Mackrell, Compton Dundon, High Ham, Meinton Mandeville and Pitney, at an estimated cost of £261,512 is being considered by the Ministry of Health and the County Council.

DRAINAGE and SEWERAGE.

The only portions of the District where sewerage systems exist are :-

1. SOMERTON. where about 4/5ths of the dwelling houses are drained and conveyed to the Sewage Field where downward Intermittent filtration is carried out. The irrigation works at the above Farm have been considerably improved by the addition of nearly 2 acres of land. The result of Effluent Supplies collected at the Outfall before passing into the River Cary has been satisfactory.
2. KINGSBURY EPISCOPI AND EAST LIMBROOK. The scheme for this Parish, approved in 1936, has given satisfactory results. The majority of the Houses on the line of Sewer are connected.
3. CURRY RIVER. The Sewerage Scheme approved in 1937 and completed in 1938 is working satisfactorily. Owing to the War not all the houses on the line of Sewer are yet connected.

Samples at the Outfalls of Kingsbury Episcopi and Curry River are regularly collected, the results from both schemes being satisfactory.

SECTION C. cont:

3. (1)	<u>Closet Accommodation.</u>	...	No Change.
(2)	<u>Public Cleansing.</u>	...	No Change.
(3)	<u>Sanitary Inspection of the Area.</u>		
	Inspections for nuisances	... ..	10
	Informal Notices.	... ..	10
	Draining Tests and Inspections	... ..	44.
	Houses disinfected	... ..	10.
	Shops and Offices.	... ..	No action was taken during the year under the Shops Acts 1934.
	Smoke Abatement.	... ..	No serious cases of smoke nuisance were reported during the year.

SECTION D.

10 new council houses have been built during the year. Fifteen condemned houses are still temporarily in use.

Housing Inspections. (Including houses surveyed in connection with the Hobhouse Report)

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing defects (under P.H. or Housing Acts.)	... ..	603
(b)	Number of inspections made for this purpose.	... ..	603
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under H. Con. Reg. 1925 and 1932	... ..	594
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	... ..	594
(c)	Number of houses in which no action was found necessary	... ..	26
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	238
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... ..	280

Housing Action.

(a)	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	4
(b)	Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action	2

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

Proceedings under the Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936- NIL.

Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

Proceedings under Sections 11, 13 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936	NIL
Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	NIL

Housing Act, 1936 - Overcrowding.

There is still some unavoidable but highly undesirable overcrowding.

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

Number of Producers on the Register	...	...	...	472
Number of Distributors on the Register	...	...	...	127
(divided as follows :)				
(1) Distributors only	...	...	...	2
(2) Distributors who are also Producers	...	...	...	125

The following Milk Samples were taken during 1946 :-

Ungraded	...	...	37
Pasteurised	...	...	4
Tubercle Bacilli	...	...	61
Tuberculin Tested	..	...	36
Accredited	...	...	60
			<u>198</u>

(b) Meat and other Foods.

Number of Slaughterhouses licensed	...	...	...	9
Registered	...	...	...	2
Number in use under the Ministry of Food	...	...	...	NIL

During the year 57 visits were made in connection with the examination of meat and other foods.

Number of Knackers Yards in use	1
---------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

SECTION F.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The following children are now immunised :-

1048 school children (+5-14 years inclusive )	...	...	90.9%
678 children under school age (1-4 years inclusive )	...	...	83.4%

+ These figures refer only to children attending County maintained schools. It has **not been** possible to ascertain figures for children in the district attending other schools, though it is believed that the great majority of these children are also immunised.

Notifiable Diseases.

Disease	Total cases notified		Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Total Deaths.
	1945	1946		
Diphtheria	-	1	1	-
Scarlet Fever	9	10	3	-
Measles	206	6	-	-
Whooping Cough	25	21	-	-
Chicken Pox	-	25	21	-
Malaria	-	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	1	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	6	5	1
Cerebral Spinal Meningitis	-	1	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	1	1	-
Pneumonia	-	4	-	-

SECTION F. Cont.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Analysis of the Total Cases Identified.

	Under 1-yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15-20 yrs.	20-35 yrs.	35-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	2	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	4	-	-
Whooping Cough	2	2	2	2	4	9	-	-	-	-	-
Chicken Pox	-	4	2	1	1	13	1	3	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	1	-	-
Cerebral Spinal Meningitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Period.	<u>NEW CASES.</u>				<u>DEATHS.</u>			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	2	2	2	1	-	-	-
25 - 35	2	2	-	1	1	-	-	-
35 - 45	5	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2
65 & upwards.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
TOTAL	7	6	5	4	2	2	1	2
TOTAL	New Cases. 22.				Deaths. 7.			

